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August 23, 1994

The Honourable Reed Hundt, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W., Room 814  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Sir:

The guidelines for enforcement of the Children's Television Act of 1990 need to be strengthened to provide more educational programming for children.

Television is a powerful influence on children. The average child watches hours of television daily. Much of this television is violent. Numerous studies have proven watching violent shows cause children to behave more aggressively. The popular children's shows become the basis for children's games. I have seen this many times with my own children and

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shows like Ninja Turtles and Power Rangers.

Television can have a positive effect on children.

My seven year old and a friend happened to watch the same educational program, separately, on the same day. They discussed it over the phone, went back to school and formed a recycling club with a third child, then walked around the school picking up litter.

Whether we like it or not, television will shape the next generation. We have the responsibility, as adults, to make sure this powerful influence is used to the benefit of our children.

Sincerely,  
Janis Sussman

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625 S. Beverly  
Casper, WY 82609  
September 4, 1994

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The Honorable Reed Hundt,  
Chairman Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW, Room B14  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Hundt:

As a community college child care center director at Casper College, I am writing to urge you to defend the best interests of our nation's children by strengthening the guidelines for the Children's Television Act.

Millions of American children grow up facing constant crises such as hunger, poverty, family problems and violence -- leaving them ill-prepared to learn in school. Millions more are educated in underfunded and troubled school systems. The number of school drop-outs and illiterate high school graduates increases dramatically each year. These trends imperil our nation's health, security and future.

Television has an unparalleled influence in the lives of all Americans and can play an unprecedented role in nourishing the minds of our nation's children. Today children have better access to sensationalistic talk shows, violent cartoons, and adult sitcoms than they do to programming designed to enrich their minds. This must change.

The market forces, which govern how shows are developed and aired, are biased against educational programming for children. We cannot leave the educational needs of our nation's children in the unseen hands of market forces. Inaction has already led to the dominance of shows cynically designed to serve as marketing vehicles for toys, candy and other products.

The FCC must stand up for children. The FCC must provide broadcasters with a clearer definition of "educational" programming and make sure that television stations air at least one hour a day of these shows between 7 a.m.-10 p.m. in regularly scheduled time slots. America's children are counting on you.

Sincerely,

*Wilma M. Reever*

Wilma M. Reever

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